

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-14, 17-28, 30, and 32 are pending in this application.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32 are amended herein. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

1. Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Office Action indicates that claim 27 includes an informality related to the “second and third computer readable program code means.” Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 27 does not recite second and third computer readable program code means. Claim 32 does recite second and third computer readable program code means, but as submitted in the Amendment dated March 24, 2003, claim 32 also recites a first computer readable program code means. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The Office Action also rejects claim 27 due to another informality. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that the “and” in line 9 of the claims should be deleted since the paragraph that follows it is not the last paragraph of the claim. Applicant respectfully submits

that the line 10 which recites, "a launching step of..." follows line 9 and starts the last paragraph of independent claim 27. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 27 is definite and requests withdrawal of this grounds of rejection.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

1. Claims 1, 2, 5, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko, et al. (US Patent No. 6,134,030), in view of Sakurai (US Patent No. 5,924,802) and Matsumoto, et al. (US Patent No. 6,301,611). Applicant respectfully submits that the amended independent claims 1, 24, 27, and 32 and claims directly or indirectly dependent therefrom are patentably distinct from the cited references, either alone or in combination.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

launching means adapted to automatically launch either the print software or the read software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the option selection signal received from said signaling unit, and to terminate the print software and allow displaying an image read by said reader when said detection device detects that said reader is selected or installed.

Independent claims 24, 27, and 32 have been amended similarly. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest launching means adapted to terminate the print software.

The Office Action indicates that, "Kaneko differs from claims 1, 2, 5, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, and 32 in that he does not clearly disclose a signaling unit provided in the first

apparatus, adapted to automatically transmit to the information processing apparatus an option signal indicative of the detected option when the option is changed; print and read software stored on the image processing apparatus and launching either the print or read software depending on the selected option detected by the detection device.” (See, Office Action page 3, paragraph 4 – page 4, paragraph 1.) Moreover, the Kaneko patent does not teach or suggest terminating the print software and displaying an image read by said reader when the detection device detects that the reader is selected or installed, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32.

Regarding the Sakurai patent, Sakurai discloses a printer to which an optional device can be attached. As indicated in the Office Action, Kaneko modified in view of Sakurai, “does not clearly disclose allowing displaying of an image read by the reader (scanner) when the detection device detects that the reader is detected or installed, and that the software is application software.” (See, Office Action, page 5, paragraph 1). Furthermore, the Sakurai patent simply does not teach or suggest terminating the printer application when the detection device detects that the reader is detected or installed, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and 32.

With respect to the Matsumoto patent, Matsumoto executes a plurality of functions of a composite apparatus in parallel, as disclosed in Col. 1, lines 39-53. The CPU 101 disclosed in Col. 12, lines 5-30, processes and executes a command sent from the information processing terminal (FAX server). However, the Matsumoto patent simply does not teach or

suggest CPU 101 terminating the print application when the reader is selected or installed, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 24, 27, and 32.

In direct contrast to the cited references, amended independent claims 1, 24, 27, and 32 explicitly recite, "terminating the print software and allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said reader is selected or installed." Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above Applicant submits that amended independent claims 1, 24, 27, and 32 are patentably distinct from the Kaneko, Sakurai, and Matsumoto patents, alone or in combination. Similarly, for at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claims 2, 5, 25, 26, 28, and 30, which are directly or indirectly dependent on the amended independent claims are also patentably distinct from the cited references, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

2. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko, in view of Sakurai and Matsumoto, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Minamizawa (US Patent No. 6,065,074).

Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that claim 13 is patentably distinct from the cited references. Specifically, because the Minamizawa patent does not remedy the deficiencies detailed above regarding the cited references and claim 13 is dependent on amended independent claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent claim 13 is also patentably distinct. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

3. Claims 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko, et al., in view of Sakurai, and Matsumoto, et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that the amended independent claim 14 and claims directly or indirectly dependent therefrom are patentably distinct from the cited references either alone or in combination. Specifically, since amended independent claim 14 also recites, *inter alia*, “terminating the print software and allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said reader is selected or installed.”, and in light of the reasons discussed above, claim 14 and the claims 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22, which are directly or indirectly dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited references either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant request withdrawals of this ground of rejection.

4. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko, in view of Sakurai and Matsumoto, as applied to claims 14 above, and further in view of Minamizawa.

Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that claim 23 is patentably distinct from the cited references. Specifically, because the Minamizawa patent does not remedy the deficiencies detailed above regarding the cited references and claim 23 is dependent on amended independent claim 14, dependent claim 23 is also patentably distinct. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

IV Dependent Claims

The Applicant does not believe it necessary at this time to further address the rejections of the dependent claims as the Applicant believes the foregoing places the independent

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claims in condition for allowance. The Applicant, however, reserves the right to address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

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CONCLUSION

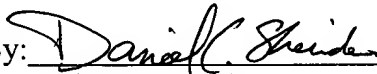
It is now believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. In view of the amendment and remarks, an early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to telephone the Applicant's counsel at the telephone number listed below.

In the event that any fees are necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 12-4500, order no. 1232-4465.

Respectfully submitted,

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